Secta. II-27—100,206—21-6-52.

Food & Agriculture (1951) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 2015

2015

Dated 13-10-51.

13-10-51

[Despatch Abstract.]

Returning - Rural work deration [illegible] and [illegible] - Rice [illegible]

COPY OF REFERENCE FROM THE BOARD OF REVENUE (CIVIL SUPPLIES) REF.NO.163579-UVI/51 (CS) DATED 1-10-1951.

SUB: CIVIL SUPPLIES - Rice - Madras State Food Budget from 16-9-1951 to 31-12-1951 - Rice deficit - Proposals for meeting the deficit - Submitted.

REF: Government Memo. No.65741-A/51-1 Food and Agriculture dated 21-9-51.
Government Memo. No.44026-A/51-5 Food and Agriculture dated 15-9-51.

With reference to the Government Memoranda cited, calling for proposals for meeting the deficit in rice the Board submits a food budget for rice for the period from 16-9-1951 to 31-12-1951. It will be observed therefrom, that at the end of December there may be a deficit of only 52,500 tons of rice as against 62,600 tons estimated previously in the Food Budget communicated to Government in Board's Ref. No.158907-H/51 dated 15-9-51. The Board has examined the possibilities of meeting this deficit and offers the following suggestions:

(i) To withdraw the issue of 2 ozs of rice through Fair Price Shops:

If this pruposals if given effect to, with effect from 1-10-51, there will be a saving of 14,500 tons a month or about 43,500 tons for the rest of the year. But the Board is of opinion, that this proposal is out of question, as this will have a bad psychological effect and will evoke severe criticism from the Public and the press. The best course, therefore, would be to issue instructions to the Collectors that the rationed areas should be the first charge for allotment of rice and that the Fair Price shops in the rural areas should be given only such stocks as may be left, after meeting the requirements of the rationed areas. These instructions will in actual effect reduce the rice offtake appreciably and result in some savings to make up the deficit by the close of the year, particularly in view of the impending harvests in many of the districts. Even now, the issue of 2 ozs. of rice through Fair Price Shops is "subject to availability". It is observed from the diaries of many District Supply Officers that many Fair Price shops have been without rice in some weeks. This position may continue so far as it is inevitable and the Collectors may be asked to make the Statutory areas the first charge on their stocks.

2. The next course is to reduce the rice ration in the rural rationed areas of Malabar, Nilgiris and South Kanara (Hosdrug Sub Taluk) from 6 to 5 ozs., There is no denying the fact that the above ar as have been over-generously treated in the matter of rice supply. Almost everyone in these areas, has been very poor. It is but just that Malabar foregoes a little of rice and takes a little more of millets, when the rural areas of the other districts are getting only "2ozs. of rice according to availability". It is true that there is Intensive Procurement in Malabar and Nilgiris whereas there is no procurement in other areas. But as the State is now in a tight corner, these districts should help themselves. In these circumstances and in view of the fact that the harvest of the main crop soon comes off in the West Coast, the Board suggests that the rice ration in the rural areas of Malabar, Nilgiris, and Hosdrug Sub taluk of South

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~~Kanara may be~~

Kanara maybe reduced from 6 to 5 ozs. with effect ~~effect~~ from 7-10-51, the over-all ration being kept at 12 ozs. The savings on this account will be 6,900 tons. It may be pointed out that it is not desirable to reduce the ration from 6 to 5 ozs. in the other rural rationed areas such as Bhavani Sagar in Coimbatore district, Pamban-Rameswaram area in Ramanathapuram district, Tirumalai Hills in Chittoor district and Salur in Chicacole district in view of the fact that the Bhavanisagar area is a labour camp and the other two areas in Ramanathapuram and Chittoor are All India Pilgrim centres. Furthermore, the savings due to reduction of rice in these areas will be negligibl, as the offtake is not much.

3. The rice ration for the industrial and essential services in the derationed deficit districts may also be reduced from 6 to 5 ozs. with effect from 7-10-51. This is not likely to affect seriously the people in these areas as they can always supplement the rations by going in for grains in the open-market. The savings on this account will be 2,800 tons.

4. The most important course which has to be adopted to make up the deficit would be to launch a special procurement drive in December next particularly in the surplus districts to procure an additional quantity of at least 20,000 tons over and above what was estimated to be procured during this month in framing the food budget. In fact, in the surplus districts alone about 62,000 tons of rice was actually procured in December 1950, whereas only 35,000 tons has been estimated to be procured in framing the food budget. It may therefore be possible to procure atleast an additional quantity of 20,000 tons, if an all-out effort is made (provided the seasonal conditions are favourable) and this will go a long way to bride the gap in the over all deficit.

5. It ~~is~~ may be pointed out in this connection that the deficit of 52,500 tons referred to in the food budget includes the estimated loss of 35,000 tons in procurement in West Godavari district. This loss is out of the one lakh acres of first crop paddy reported to have been affected due to the floods and the loss in production is estimated at 60,000 tons of rice. Although the first crop is harvested in November and December, the bulk of this crop is procured only from January onwards and the effect of the loss of 35,000 tons of first crop paddy will be felt to a large extent only next year. So far as 1952 is concerned, there may not be a loss of more than 10,000 tons by way of procurement in this district. The balance of 25,000 tons can therefore be left out of account, in assessing the food deficit for this year.

6. In conclusion, the above proposals will result in saving of 54,700 tons as indicated below.

		Tons.
1.	Reduction of rice ration from 6 to 5 ozs. in the rural rationed areas of Malabar, Nilgiris and Hosdrug sub-taluk of South Kanara.	6,900
2.	Reduction of rice ration from 6 to 5 ozs. to the industrial and essential services of the De-rationed deficit districts;	2,800
3.	Additional procurement expected by launching a special procurement drive;	20,000
4.	Exclusion of the loss of 25,000 tons in West Godavari district from the food budget which will be felt only in the next year's procurement.	25,000
	Total--	54,700

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These measures are expected to wipe out the deficit and help us to get through the next three months. The Board has already submitted proposals to the Government in Board's Ref.No.B. 161736/51 dated 27-9-51, suggesting that in the rural rationed and derationed areas of the State rice should be supplied only, when at least 4 ozs of ~~xxxx~~ milo or millets are taken. If this materialises, it will depress the rice offtake. Besides, there may be some further savings as a result of issuing instructions to the Collectors to concentrate on the rationed areas as the first charge in the supply of rice as already suggested above.

7. The Board requests early orders in the matter.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ABSTRACT

RATIONING - Rural and Derationed areas - Scale and composition of rations - Revision of - Orders issued.

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